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Dénombrements des Feux des Duché de Luxembourg et Comté de Chiny: Documents Fiscaux de 1306 à 1537. Réunis par JACQUES GROB, publiés avec des Additions et Corrections de JULES VAN-NÉRUS. Volume I. (Brussels: P. Imbreghts. 1921. Pp. xi, 796.)

THE Royal Commission of Belgian History has not been discouraged by the war. It continues to harvest original documents relating to the lands that were, as well as those which are, Belgic. This volume has to do with the whole of Luxemburg—present Belgian department and grand duchy alike—in its former status as countship or duchy, although the grand duchy has been entirely out of the Belgic circle for 83 years. It happens, however, that within the last few months there has been a fresh adjustment of relations between the two. The customs barrier has been removed by the final ratification on March 6, 1922, of the Belgian-Luxemburg treaty signed by the negotiators on July 25, 1921. It is a mere customs alliance, to be sure. The political independence of the grand duchy is preserved. But the commercial interests of the greater and the lesser state are welded together just as those of the latter were with Germany in the *Zollverein*, summarily abolished in 1918. Other changes will follow inevitably in addition to certain items already accepted. Belgian money is to replace Luxemburg bank notes of more than ten francs which are now in circulation, Belgian consuls will probably assume charge of Luxemburg interests (as a survival of the personal union with Holland, these have been in charge of Dutch officials abroad), a *Commission Paritaire* composed of three Luxemburg and three Belgian delegates is to study the metallurgic problems, while the administration of the railroads, in German control from 1872 to 1918, is to be arranged later after discussion by the two governments. No one can deny that the doors have been opened to a resumption of a relationship even closer than that existing of old when the sovereign at Brussels was also count or duke of Luxemburg in his own person. Grand-ducal have been by no means unanimous in desiring this after-war affiliation, even though they did not cling to Germany in prosperity or in defeat. Their reluctance is, perhaps, a direct inheritance from past ages when there was a tenacious desire to preserve control of their money affairs and to resent the slightest attempt to sweep them into any general system of taxation emanating from the seat of the general government. But this is all by the way. The new union has nothing to do with the appearance of the volume as part of the Belgian series. The Luxemburg matter was a part of the scheme of the Commission Royale long before 1914. The enumeration of the "fires" was a careful census of the inhabitants for the purpose of allotting the contribution to be expected from each unit of taxation—which was what each "fire" denoted. The freedom of the duchy from the imposition of any collective tax voted by the States General was recognized. In 1473 the Duke of Burgundy, and at later dates Charles V., asked a volun-

tary aid from Luxemburg, the Estates assented and then proceeded to distribute the burden. But their assessments were by no means meekly accepted. Individualism persisted in the property units that composed the duchy just as it did in the states that made up the Seventeen Provinces. The census is interesting, not only as showing the population and its distribution at the epochs indicated, but also as evidence of the tenacious memory of the precise conditions under which each unit had entered into the state and what exemptions it was entitled to. Every precedent for shirking responsibility was cited. In 1473 the sum voted by the optimistic Estates was 12,000 crowns, but the tax-gatherers found their task of collecting infinitely difficult in the face of the exemptions claimed by those who were rated as giving voluntarily to aid their sovereign in his enterprises beyond their frontiers.

This volume has been long on the way. In 1914 the editor, Abbé Grob, a Luxemburger, was interrupted in his effort to gather scattered data. His death in 1915 threw his material into the hands of Jules Van-nerus, who found many errors, not unnatural in documents of a bilingual land. It has taken him a long time to disentangle the confusion. The volume will be useful to any student of feudal land tenure and its obligations.

Nova Alamanniae: Urkunden, Briefe, und andere Quellen besonders zur Deutsche Geschichte des 14. Jahrhunderts. Von EDMUND STENGEL. I. Hälfte. (Berlin: Weidmannsche Buchhandlung. 1921. Pp. ii, 416. M. 54.)

SOME medievalist ought to write a book on the office of the notary in the Middle Ages, for what is written is scattered and insufficient. This much, I think, may truthfully be said without doing injustice to the labors of Harry Bresslau and Arthur Giry, to whose noble works every student of medieval history is a debtor. The proof of this observation lies in this collection, which contains some very valuable documents upon the nature and practice of the medieval notary's profession (nos. 369, 397, 483, 496). Everywhere in Europe the important trusts committed to notaries required them to be men of character, intelligence, education, and practical ability. The gem of these documents is no. 483, which gives the text of the oath a medieval notary was required to take. The dignity and honor of the profession contrasts sharply with the degraded condition of the modern notary's office. The instruction reads (but the whole document ought to be read for its minute instructions):

Tu jurabis ad sancta Dei ewangelia de cetero fidelis esse sacrosancte Romane ecclesie ac sacro imperio Romano suisque imperatoribus, scripturas vero per te in formam publicam redigendas in carta papirea vel unde abrasa fuerit scriptura non conscribas tabellionatusque officium sine fraude exercebis nil addens vel minuens maliciose vel fraudulenter, quod contrarium alteri prodesse poterit vel obesse.